Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 04695 181630Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 INRE-00
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O R 181555Z MAR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2918
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4695

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG US
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S CLINTON REMARKS

1. MFA OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY DELIGHTED WITH PRESIDENT'S CLINTON REMARKS

AND TELLING JOURNALISTS OF THEIR PLEASURE. EMBOFF WHO TALKED BRIEFLY WITH FAHMY'S OFFICE DIRECTOR MORNING OF MARCH 17 WHEN NEWS TICKERS WERE FIRST AVAILABLE HERE, FOUND HIM JULILANT: THIS IS "TERRIFIC NEWS".

2. AHRAM AND AKHBAR MARCH 18 BANNERS REFLECT EUPHORIA:
" AMERICAN PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES FOR FIRST TIME NECESSITY FOR ES-TABLISHING PERMANENT HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS" (AHRAM).
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 04695 181630Z

LEAD STORY SNIDELY NOTES " ANGRY" REACTION IN ISRAEL, WITH SPECIAL MENTION OF RABIN'S REMARKS THAT HE WISHED PRESIDENT HAD USED A WORD OTHER THAN "HOMELAND" (REFERENCE, THOUGH IMPLICIT, IS, OF COURSE, TO THE BALFOUR DECLARATION'S PROMISE OF A NATIONAL "HOME" FOR THE JEWS IN PALESTINE). STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IS OFFICIAL USG POLICY, WHICH CAIRO PRESS CONSIDERS "A TACIT ADMISSION" THAT

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PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS WERE CAREFULLY PREPARED.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS COMMENTARY AS YET, EXCEPT IN AHRAM'S FINAL EDITION WITH ENUMERATES " POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS", PRESUMABLY IN EFFORT REFOCUS ATTENTION ON ARAB DIS-INCLINATION ACCEPT NOTION OF TWO SETS OF BORDERS. ON POSITIVE SIDE, AHRAM NOTES (A) PRESIDENT'S STRESS ON DEVOTING HIS TIME FROM NOW UNTIL AUTUMN TO ME, (B) FIRST TIME EVER AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT " ADMINTS" NECESSITY OF NATIONAL HOME FOR PALESTINIANS AND (C) OBSERVATION THAT NEW WAR IN ME COULD SPREAK WORLDWIDE. WITH THESE THREE POINTS, GOE "FULLY AGREES". PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON SECURE BORDERS ARE, HOWEVER, "DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO ARAB RIGHT TO SAFEGUARD INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BORDERS." FURTHER, TO DESCRIBE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL AS "FINE ACT" CONFLICTS WITH PALESTINAINA WISH TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL HOME-LAND.

4. RELIABLE AND EXPERIENCE AMERICAN JOURNALIST, WHO HAS BEEN TALKING TO MFA OFFICIALS, TELLS US MFA NOW SEEKING TO DEVISE METHODS AND DEVICES WHICH WOULD ALLOW DEFENSIBLE BORDERS TO LIE ON LEGAL BORDERS. SFM TYPE INSTALLATIONS BEING MUCH DISCUSSED.

5. SAME JOURNALIST TELLS US THAT THERE IS CONFIDENTIAL TALK THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT WILL ALLOW EGYPT TO GO WITH SYRIAN TO GENEVA WITHOUT WAITING FOR PALESTINIANS. BY PRESENTING AN AMERICAN "ADMISSION" OF PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO HOMELAND, INVITATION TO PLO RECEDES IN POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR SARG AND GOE, SINCE SUCH USG POLICY INSURES TOPIC WILL BE ON MEPC AGENDA.
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 04695 181630Z

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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22 May 2009
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